

MOST WAY HOME

BY
KEVIN YOUNG

Published by:
(William Morrow, New York, 1995)

Selected by the National Poetry Series
as one of the best Books of Poems, 1993.

Most Way Home is grounded in family, homecomings and African American history. Kevin Young's poetry has been described as "a voice that speaks to us from inside the tornado called history about events that are real in the sense that gossip, home remedies, sideshows, family secrets, and a wild imagination are real".

Available in Local Bookstores

About the Book . . .

Four sections of poems encompass an ever-changing psychic and physical landscape, a multitude of voices. "Husbandry" tells one family's story of loss, life and land, "how home for us is wherever we're not." The second section, "The Spectacle," is our ticket to a traveling sideshow in a Louisiana parish. Poems as magical as their subject present the Gothic wonders of "The Thin Man's Apprentices" and the tattooed man. With humor and horror, the narrator of the long sequence "Saying Grace" unsentimentally relates her Southern Childhood, of having "No plumbing, no rats, only mice thick/ enough to believe we had more/ than they did." The speaker celebrates and eulogizes her childhood, praying "those homemade spirits/ would warm most way home." The last section looks at history and the American landscape from a contemporary eye. Poems travel to "Clyde Peeling's Reptiland, in Allenwood, Pennsylvania" and "Eddie Priest's Barbershop & Notary," visiting places" where nothing but the cold/ wonders where you're headed. . . and only/ the car sings AM the whole night through.

\$20.00

About the Author . . .

Kevin Young began his formal education at a Montessori school in Boston and graduated from Topeka High School in Topeka, Kansas. He is a graduate of Harvard University, where he was awarded the Academy of American Poets Prize. Kevin received a Stegner Fellowship in poetry at Stanford University, and has held residency at MacDowell Colony and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. A member of the Dark Room Collective of Writers, he is currently completing an M.F.A. at Brown University.